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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3275  
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VILNIUS 000084

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958; DECL: 02/10/2019  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOFS](#) [PREL](#) [LH](#)  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR AND DEFENSE MINISTER PLAN FOR SECRETARY  
GATES MEETING

Classified By: Senior Adviser Stephen Mull for REASONS 1.4 (B), (C) and (D).

¶1. (U) This cable is an action request. Please see paragraph five. Ambassador Seche is authorized to orally convey information in paragraphs 7  
¶2. (S) OBJECTIVE: (a) To obtain ROYG cooperation with CENTCOM efforts to interdict the smuggling of weapons into Gaza, including through authc  
¶3. (S) Background: On January 16, 2009, the USG signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Israel on the prevention of supply  
¶4. (S//NF) We understand a significant volume of arms shipments to Hamas make the short 24-hour transit across the Red Sea from Yemen to Sudar  
¶5. (S) Obtaining Yemeni permission to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and helicopters over Yemeni territorial waters would greatly enhance  
¶6. (S/REL ROYG) Action Request: To fully support DoD's intent to disrupt and deter illicit arms smuggling, Embassy Sanaa is requested to apprc  
¶7. (S/REL ROYG) Post is also requested to emphasize the importance of the broader interdiction effort to the USG and propose that the ROYG rec  
¶8. (S//NF) Our arms interdiction efforts are focused on preventing shipments intended for Gaza. Nonetheless, Gaza-bound shipments represent or  
¶9. (S/REL ROYG) Points for Oral Presentation: Arms Smuggling in Yemeni Coastal Waters In the past, we have had extensive discussions with your